A group of students in tan uniforms and red blazers are celebrating on a stage, raising their arms and holding certificates. The background is a blue backdrop with the SkillsUSA logo and the word 'Technology' visible.

**SkillsUSA Kentucky competitors win
3 Gold, 2 Silver and 3 Bronze Medals**

**33 Kentucky contestants are
“Top-Ten” finishers**

13 Students receive Skill Point Certificates

**SkillsUSA Championships
National Leadership and Skills Conference
Leadership and Competitive Events
and**

**Awards and Recognition Program
June 25-26, 2008**

**CNN
Technology**
Kansas City, Missouri

SkillsUSA returned to Kansas City, Missouri from June 23-27, 2008 for its 44th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference. The showcase of quality career and technical education has been described as “the centerpiece of the conference.” According to a news release, more than 14,000 students, teachers, education leaders, and representatives from more than 1,100 national corporations, trade associations, businesses and labor unions attended the event. The conference was host to 91 hands-on skill and leadership competitions.

Kentucky’s delegation was 152 members strong with 110 students competing in 76 secondary and postsecondary events, and 34 advisors and teachers were on hand to provide assistance. Eight Kentucky SkillsUSA state officers took part in the national officer-training course and served as national voting delegates. Approximately 30 school districts from across the commonwealth were represented.

According to SkillsUSA Kentucky State Director Steve Phillippi, this year’s conference surpassed previous benchmarks.

“Our national staff has gone the extra mile to ensure that each participant was provided with a variety of worthwhile activities to experience,” said Phillippi. “Members of our delegation have competed, visited the 147 TECHSPO exhibits, participated as technical committee members, helped judge events, attended training, served as national voting delegates, participated in the Timberland Community Service project, enjoyed opening and closing ceremonies, and even won eight medals. It’s been a great success because so many individuals have had an opportunity to grow and develop as a result of attending this conference.”

The following represents a list, compiled by SkillsUSA Kentucky State Director Steve Phillippi, of students who placed in the top 10 in their respective group competition at nationals.

1st Place (Gold Medal)

Automated Manufacturing Technology (PS)

Jonathan Fox, Somerset CC

Aaron Ross, Somerset CC

Anastasia South, Somerset CC

2nd Place (Silver Medal)

CNC Turning Technology (Secondary)

Chad Lowe, Breckinridge Co. ATC

Cosmetology (Postsecondary)

Cilia Rains, Somerset CC-Laurel Campus

3rd Place (Bronze Medal)

HVAC- Refrigeration (Secondary)

Cody Wheeler, Barren Co. ATC

Computer Maintenance Technology (Secondary)

Michael Winstead, Webster Co. ATC

Criminal Justice (Postsecondary)

Keegan Bray, Somerset CC

4th Place

Sheet Metal (Secondary)

Ryan Goetz, Boone Co. ATC

5th Place

Aviation Maintenance Technology (Secondary)

Joshua Hall, Shawnee H.S. (Jefferson CTC)

Residential Wiring (Secondary)

Drew Young, Hughes Jones-Harrodsburg ATC

Job Skill Demonstration A (Secondary)

Matthew Ryan Helm, Lake Cumberland ATC

Prepared Speech (Secondary)

Righter Dundon, Franklin Co. Career & Tech. Center

6th Place

Automated Manufacturing (Secondary)

Andrew Basham, Richard Thurman and Brian

Whitworth, Breckinridge Co. ATC

Electronics Technology (Postsecondary)

Curtis Combs, Somerset CC

Esthetics (Postsecondary)

Whitney Gambrell, Somerset CC- Laurel Campus

Esthetics (Model) (Postsecondary)

Jayme Payne, Somerset CC -Laurel Campus

Chapter Business Procedure (Secondary)

Thomas Damico-Roach, Nicholas Fowler, Steven

Hamlet, Tiffany Patterson, William Stallings, and

Daniel Suits - Meade Co. ATC

7th Place

Related Technical Math (Secondary)

Bradley Butler, Paducah ATC

8th Place

Aviation Maintenance Technology (Postsecondary)

Kyle Hargrove, Jefferson CTC

Job Demonstration A (Postsecondary)

Brandon Jones, Butler Co. ATC

9th Place

Action Skills (Secondary)

Kevin Holder, Southern High School

CNC Milling Technology (Postsecondary)

Wayne Gastineau, Todd Stephens – Somerset CC

10th Place

Job Skill Demonstration O (Secondary)

Kristen Arvin, Eastside Career & Technical Center

Industrial Motor Control (Postsecondary)

Aron Decker, Elizabethtown CTC

Chad Lowe wins Silver Medal in Secondary CNC Turning Competitive Event



Breckinridge Co. ATC machine tool technology student Chad Lowe is under the direction of instructor Tommy Thompson.

Photo below:
Lowe, far right, enjoys his moment of victory on stage.



Cody Wheeler experiences mishap prior to catching bus for Kansas City – Rebounds to Bronze medal

Some people have all the luck. Cody Wheeler, a Barren County ATC HVAC student, was on his way to catch the bus to Kansas City for national competition when his car hydroplaned. The next thing he knew, he had hit a telephone brace wire that spun his car around and into a tree. Wheeler was not hurt...but, his car suffered some damage.

Afraid to travel to the bus location, Wheeler called his mother for help. She came and stayed with his car so he could try to catch the bus. In the meantime, his father tried to contact the school to inform someone of the accident. Cody missed his bus. He went back home to check over the schedule for additional pick-up locations. Because of lost time, Cody felt the best solution was to try to meet the bus in Morgantown at the Butler County ATC.

As fate would have it - the bus took a wrong turn, got lost and was running behind in scheduled stops.

Meanwhile on the bus, Rodney Nokes, Lake Cumberland ATC machine tool instructor, SkillsUSA advisor and bus captain for the trip, realized a student was missing. Nokes did a name check and found out it was Cody Wheeler. Nokes called Wheeler on his cell phone to see what had happened. When Nokes learned of the accident and that Wheeler was in route

to Morgantown, he made arrangements with the bus driver to wait. Cody was able to board the bus to Kansas City.

Persistence paid off – Cody won the bronze medal in the Secondary HVAC-Refrigeration competitive event.



Photo: Wheeler (second from left) stands on the podium after being presented the bronze medal for HVAC-Refrigeration.



HVAC-Refrigeration **BRONZE Medal Winner**

Cody Wheeler
Barren Co. ATC
Air Conditioning Technology
Brent Claywell, Instructor



“Mr Claywell is a great teacher,” said Wheeler. “He has done a lot to help me learn about air conditioning technology. It has paid off.”

BRONZE Medal Winner **Computer Maintenance Technology**

Michael Winstead, Webster Co. ATC
Information Technology
Steve Collins, instructor

“This has been the accumulation of my work and I must say it has paid off,” said Winstead. “My principal, Larry Garrity, has been instrumental in building up our SkillsUSA chapter and getting me to nationals. I appreciate his help.”



Bronze medal winner Michael Winstead, second from the left, enjoys his moment of triumph on stage.



Sheet Metal

Ryan Goetz, a student under the direction of Boone Co. ATC metal fabrication instructor Kevin McKenney, won fourth place in the secondary sheet metal competitive event during the 2008 National Leadership and Skills Conference.



Prepared Speech



Dundon getting ready to compete.

Righter Dundon, a welding technology student under the direction of Franklin County CTC instructor Randy Shewmaker won fifth place in his preliminary prepared speech event during the 2008 National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Dundon:

"Attending this conference has been great.

"I have learned to appreciate how much work goes into planning and preparing for competition, travel and all the extra training we have received.

"Our teachers and administrators deserve a lot of credit for what they have done to help us succeed. Mr. Shewmaker is a great teacher. I now understand why he talks so much about a good work ethic.

"Mr. Phillippi and Miss Gray have been right there for all of the state officers and we all look forward to this upcoming year."



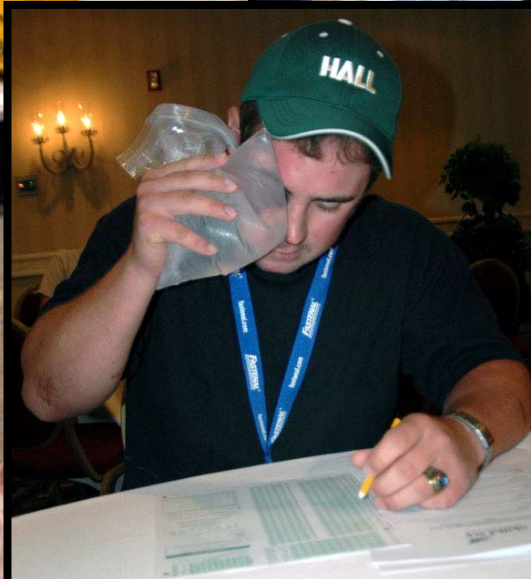
Photo (l to r): Richard Thurman, Andrew Basham, and Brian Whitworth won sixth place in the automated manufacturing technology secondary division. They are students under the direction of Breckinridge County ATC machine tool technology instructor Tommy Thompson.

Carpentry Competition

Stephen Schick, Breckinridge Co. ATC
Tom Stinnett, carpentry instructor

Schick is a 2008 graduate and began working full time in Carrollton, KY.

Prior to leaving for Kansas City, Schick had a car wreck while driving home after a 70-hour work week. He was less than 5 miles from home and his car was totaled. Schick was still able to compete even though he sustained a black eye and bruised right jaw.



At left, Schick takes PDP test while holding an ice bag over his right eye.

Food and Beverage **Competition**

Kristen Patterson
Culinary Arts
Caldwell County ATC
Ruth Gray, Instructor

“Miss Gray is a wonderful teacher and I appreciate everything she has done to help me compete at state and nationals,” said Patterson. “I’m glad I was able to come. It’s a great experience.”

“We are proud of the effort Kristen put forth during her competitive event,” said Gray. “The SkillsUSA experience will help her to become a leader in the classroom during this next year.”

Gray also serves as the Kentucky SkillsUSA State Officer Advisor.



Graphic Communications



Kentucky SkillsUSA State Director Steve Phillippi served as a “Clothing Judge” for the Graphic Communications competitive event.

*Justin Dwyer during precision
machining competitive event*



**Justin Dwyer, a machine tool technology student at Muhlenberg Co.
ATC under the direction instructor Don Settle.**



**Welding Technology
Jordan Harris
Pulaski Co. ATC
Student of Instructor Scott Johnson**

(l to r): Scott Johnson, Pulaski Co. ATC welding instructor;
Don Settle, Muhlenburg ATC machine tool technology
instructor; and Steve Phillippi.





Kentucky SkillsUSA Director Steve Phillippi, Breckinridge Co. ATC Principal James Carroll and Breckinridge Co. ATC Welding Instructor Chris Basham during competitive events on Thursday, June 26, 2008

Culinary Arts

Photo below:
Ian Rich
Culinary Arts
Waggoner High School



Graphic Communications

Photo above:
Justin Hansen
KY Tech - Bullitt Co. ATC
Don Easley, Instructor

Screen Printing Technology (Demonstration)

Photo below:
Brandi Burton
Graphic Communications
Newport High School
Steve Stubbs, Instructor



Aviation Maintenance Technology



OCTE program consultant Wayne King has been part of the Aviation Maintenance Technology national technical committee for 18 years.

Wayne King:

“I have enjoyed working on the Aviation Maintenance National committee for the last eighteen years.

“My involvement started when SkillsUSA came to Kentucky in 1991.

“My greatest rewards include hanging the medallions on the contestants and remembering how well they competed the previous day.

“Also the friendships established with other committee members are cherished. I look forward to having SkillsUSA return to Kentucky.”

Automated Manufacturing Gold Medal Winners - Postsecondary Division



Above photo (l to r): Aaron Ross, Anastasia South, and Jonathan Fox—Somerset Technical College. Students of Professor Daniel Burnett.

“Success never comes without a lot of hard work and determination. We have all benefited from our instructor Dan Burnett.”

Jonathan Fox

“This has been a real journey – from my high school CAD courses to my present day postsecondary program. Mr. Rodney Nokes really encouraged me while I was in high school and it’s because of him that I decided to pursue postsecondary education. Mr. Dan Burnett picked me to be a partner in this team and it was an honor to help bring home the gold.”

Anastasia South

“This is great...I won the gold medal at the state level twice, but this victory is the highlight of what I have learned. It has been a long journey to prepare for winning the gold,” says Aaron. “Dan has pushed us hard and I appreciate what he has done to help prepare us for this national competition.”

Aaron Ross



Photo at left: Somerset team dressed for competition.

**Professor Daniel Burnett
Somerset CC
Division Chairman
Construction and Manufacturing:**

“It has been a pleasure working with these students and there were no weak links to this team. They kept working until the job was done.”

Other postsecondary medal winners

Photo at right:
Cilia Rains
Somerset CC – South Laurel Campus
2nd – Postsecondary Cosmetology
Kay Swanner and Brandy Brock, instructors



Photo at left:
Keegan Bray (third from left)
Somerset CC
3rd – Postsecondary Criminal Justice
Brandi Coomer, instructor

“Representing my state was a great honor and my hard work paid off,” says Bray. “My instructor and several law enforcement agents helped me prepare for this competition. I greatly appreciate their help.”

13 Kentucky competitors receive Skill Point Certificates

During the 2008 SkillsUSA Championships®, the Skill Point Certificate™ was awarded to 13 Kentucky students. As part of the Work Force Ready System, SkillsUSA awarded Skill Point Certificates in 60 technical competitions to “recognize talent beyond those who earn medals at the SkillsUSA Championships,” says Kentucky director Steve Phillippi. “Earning this certificate also allows a student to document his or her achievement of industry developed standards. It serves as a proficiency indicator.”

Industry leaders who took part in defining the competencies for the Championships also determined a “cut score” that indicates excellence in technical fields. According to a SkillsUSA news release, “most cut scores range between 70 and 80 percent. Each certificate lists the competency area tested in the contest and carries the logos of organizations and companies that planned and managed this year’s competitions.”

According to the website (<http://www.workforcereadysystem.org/certificate.shtml>), students may earn a certificate by participating “in authentic assessments demonstrating in real time their knowledge and hands-on abilities.”

Kentucky students who received the Skill Point Certificate include:

Ryan Goetz, Sheet Metal – Boone County ATC
Michael Winstead, Computer Maintenance – Webster County ATC
Drew Young, Residential Wiring – Hughes Jones-Harrodsburg ATC
Any Lyons, Residential Wiring – Elizabethtown CTC
Stephen Schick, Carpentry – Breckinridge County ATC
Etahan Wright, Firefighting – Meade County ATC
Curtis Combs, Electronics – Somerset CC
Joshua Hall, Aviation Maintenance – Shawnee High School
Keegan Bray, Criminal Justice – Somerset CC
Cilia Rains, Cosmetology – Somerset CC, Laurel Campus
Cody Wheeler, HVAC-Refrigeration – Barren County ATC
Whitney Gambrell and Jayme Payne, Esthetics – Somerset CC, Laurel Campus



Good News Flash #250

By: Fran Dundon

**Office of Career and Technical
Education**

Education Cabinet

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